GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1079
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2001
FLOOD CONTROL IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH
MONI KUMAR SUBBA

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Arunachal Floods; India ignored China's warning" appearing in the Assam Tribune June 12, 2001;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether Chinese experts had already warned about the impending devastating floods in Arunachal Pradesh;

(d) if so, whether the preventive steps could not be taken to avert the loss of human life and property;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government have sent any expert team to China for proper co-ordination between the two countries to control flood menace;

(g) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(h) the steps the Government propose to take in this direction?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) Yes, Sir.

b) Arunachal Pradesh experienced flash floods during 11th − 12th June, 2000 in Siang (Brahmaputra) river. Nearly, 10,000 people are reported to be affected due to this floods. As per information available this unprecedented flash flood was not due to rainfall in the Indian position i.e. Arunachal Pradesh catchment of Brahmaputra river but due to failure or breach of blockade in the upstream portion of Brahmaputra river in Tibet.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

(f), (g) and (h) Following the floods in the Siang/Brahmaputra river in Arunachal Pradesh in June, 2000, the matter was raised by External Affairs Minister with the Chinese Foreign Minister, Mr. Tang Jiaxuan, during his visit to India on July 21-22, 2000. External Affairs Minister told the Chinese Foreign Minister that floods in the Brahmaputra river upstream in Tibet (China) was leading to devastation and loss of life and property in India, the lower riparian State. He proposed that India and China could engage in a dialogue to examine ways in which human suffering could be reduced on the Indian side in event of such natural disasters. The Chinese Foreign Minister said that he fully understood our concerns.

The Ministry of External Affairs vigorously pursued the matter. The Chinese side agreed to have a discussion with India on this matter.

An Indian delegation from the Ministry of Water Resources visited Beijing on June 8, 2001 for discussions. The Indian side stressed the need for hydrological data on both the Brahmaputra and the Sutlej on a year round basis to reduce the human suffering on our side in the event of natural disasters. The Chinese side proposed provision of rainfall, water level and discharge data on the Brahmaputra during the flood season. Modalities are to be discussed in the next round of talks.